



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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23 MARCH 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Premier Ky and his Buddhist antagonists are both standing firm. Saigon remained quiet today, but antigovernment agitation was intensified in the northern provinces, particularly in the cities of Da Nang and Hué.

For the first time, today's demonstrations contained open attacks on the US for backing Ky. The US was accused of delaying the development of parliamentary democracy in order to maintain control in Saigon. At the same time, some of the demonstrators expressed gratitude for US military help against the Viet Cong.

Government leaders are continuing intensive behind-the-scenes talks with key Buddhists. They may be seeking some kind of compromise, but the talks could well be more in the nature of probing operations with each side looking for signs of disunity in the other.

2. North Vietnam

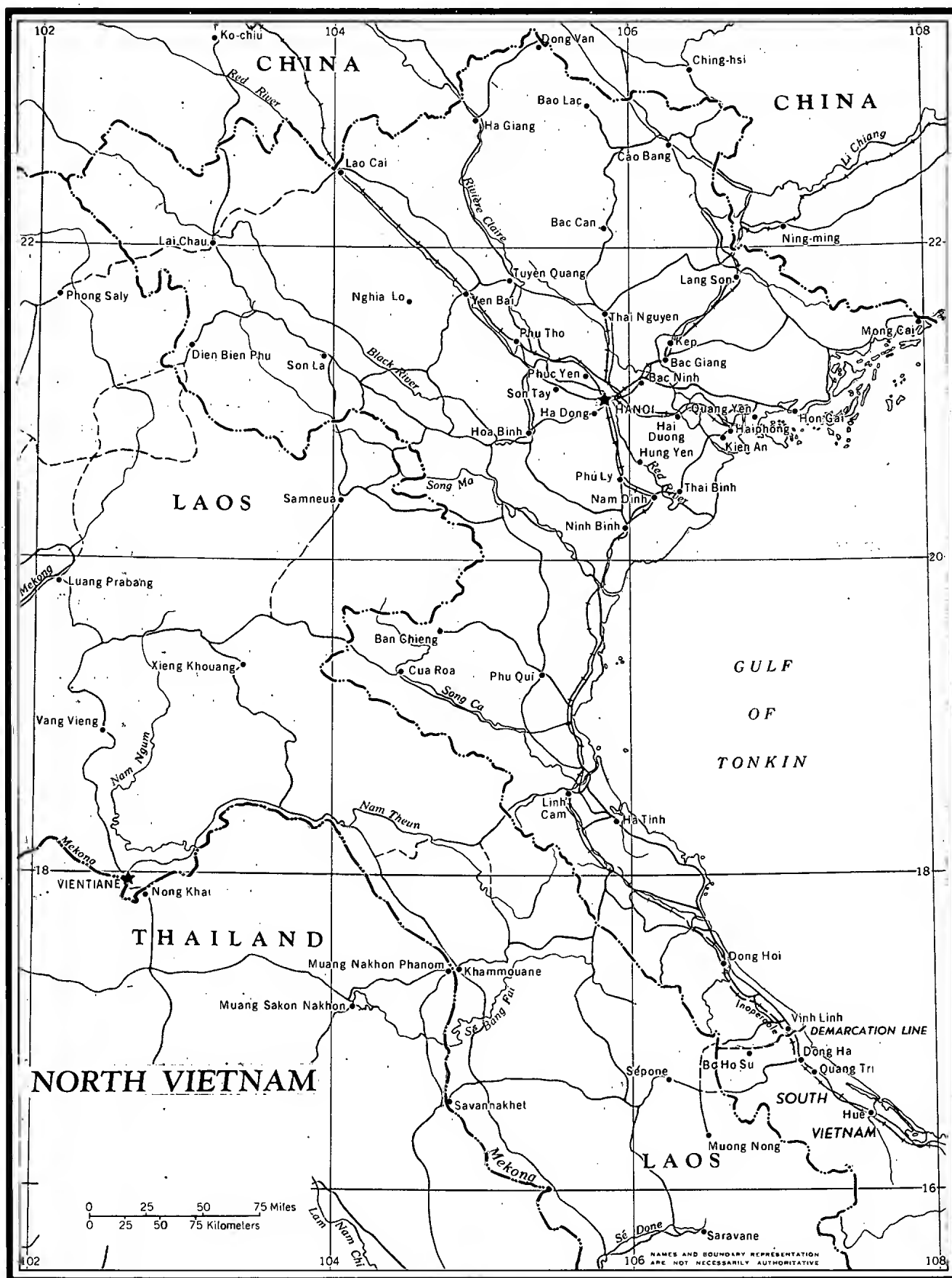
Hanoi has just arranged a sharp increase in petroleum imports, mainly gasoline and diesel fuel. A record 40,000 tons per month are to arrive in March and April. This compares to an average of 12,000 tons per month for most of last year and a monthly average of 20,000 tons since November. The gasoline and diesel fuel have been coming by sea from the Soviet Union.

This dramatic increase parallels Hanoi's recently stepped-up purchase of trucks and the build-up in truck traffic in North Vietnam and Laos.

All of this seems to amount to another strong indication of Hanoi's resolve to redouble its war effort.

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3. North Vietnam

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4. Communist China

China's refusal to attend the Soviet party congress next week brings Peking to the very verge of a de facto break in party relations with Moscow.

Mao and the other aging Chinese leaders are determined to maintain their dogmatic and isolationist course.

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Moscow undoubtedly is well satisfied with Peking's reaction. It can only strengthen the Soviet hand by showing the Communist world that the Chinese are unwilling to participate in a united movement.

The Chinese refusal puts Hanoi on the spot. The North Vietnamese have publicly accepted the Soviet invitation, and the Chinese boycott now puts them in a position of having to choose between Moscow and Peking. For years they have been trying studiously to avoid this kind of decision.

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5. Pakistan

There is now visual evidence to confirm that Communist China is supplying military equipment to Pakistan. Five Communist-built tanks were seen today at the National Day parade at Rawalpindi. An earlier photograph had spotted 41 tanks near Karachi. Only Communist China is likely to have supplied these vehicles.

Four MIG-19 aircraft also participated in the celebrations

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There have been numerous indications that the pro-Western Pakistani military officers have been reluctant to accept military aid from Peking. However, they are said to believe that since Pakistan is unable to develop other sources, taking aid from China is justifiable.

6. East Germany

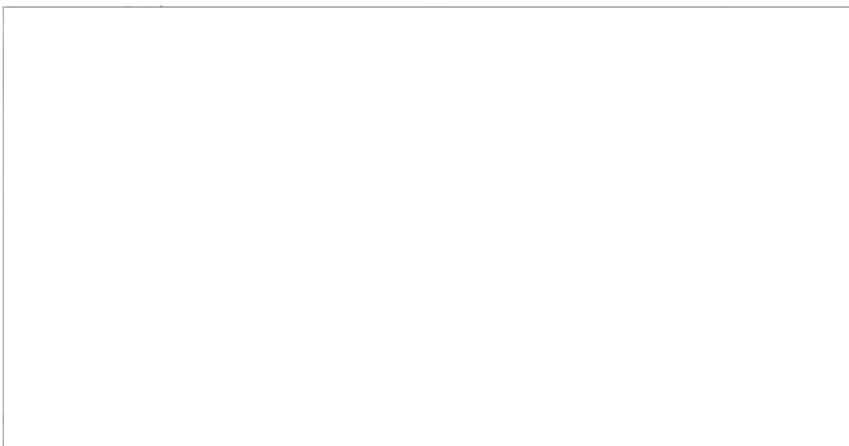
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7. Dominican Republic

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8. Bolivia

The Bolivian Government is upset about the release of tungsten from US strategic stockpiles.

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